

THEIR MAJESTIES IN POPLAR

They're building in Poplar to replace the nearly 10-thousand homes destroyed in the blitz. In the Lansbury neighbourhood a self-contained community is rising that will feature in the Festival of Britain Live Architecture Exhibition.

A new school rises on Ricardo Street where 500 boys and girls will grow into the citizens of tomorrow. Poplar is old, its homes cramped and old-fashioned. Thirteen hundred high-explosives, 50-V-weapons and 30-thousand incendiaries destroyed half the houses in Hitler's attempt to stampede East London. In their place, complete villages will be built, with blocks of flats, houses, schools, shopping centres, markets, pubs and parks. In the Lansbury neighbourhood the work's going ahead fast.

In old Poplar the market-place is a busy centre, and in the multitude of stalls there's precious little you can't find. The markets come down through the centuries - a real part of London's life and laughter. But these days there's hardly room to laugh.

But now there's excitement. The King and Queen are coming to see what Poplar is doing.

In the Ricardo street school their Majesties see a model of the complete scheme. Here is how the school will look when finished.

In the grounds of the school (which replaces one which was destroyed) their Majesties plant purple Norway maples, and then autograph the spades used.

In time, there'll be neighbourhoods like Lansbury. It's the dawn of a new era for London's East End.